

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ROME 08987 161730Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AF-10 EB-08 HA-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00
PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01
SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11 SCS-06 CA-01 IO-13 SSO-00
/109 W

-----114632 181022Z /16

R 161545Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2817

C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 8987

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: CASC, AO, IT
SUBJ: U.S. AIRCRAFT FORCED DOWN IN ANGOLA

1. MFA DIRECTOR FOR AFRICAN AFFAIRS RACHELE INFORMED US
MAY 16 THAT ITALIAN AMBASSADOR IN LUANDA VECCHI HAS HEARD
NOTHING FROM BERT LISLE ABOUT DOL 10,000 WHICH
VECCHI PAID FOR RELEASE OF LISLE'S AIRCRAFT AND ITS PILOT.
RACHELE POINTED OUT THAT ITALIAN INTERVENTION TO HELP
PLANE AND PILOT WAS NOT BECAUSE OF GOI INTEREST IN EITHER
BUT RATHER WAS DUE TO DESIRE TO HELP USG.

2. EMBASSY WISHES TO POINT OUT THAT GOI AND AMBASSADOR
VECCHI HAVE BEEN MOST HELPFUL TO USG IN ANGOLA. VECCHI
NOT ONLY WENT TO CONSIDERABLE TROUBLE TO GET PLANE AND PILOT
RELEASED BUT HAS ALSO BEEN IN TOUCH WITH JAILED AMERICAN
MERCENARIES AND HAS BEEN INSTRUMENTAL IN DEVISING AND CARRYING
OUT MAIL DELIVERY SYSTEM SO THAT PRISONERS CAN GET MAIL
FROM FAMILIES IN U.S. WE WOULD THEREFORE URGE THAT
DEPARTMENT COMMUNICATE IMMEDIATELY WITH LISLE AND POINT
OUT TO HIM THAT HE HAS FAILED TO LIVE UP TO HIS UNDERTAKING
TO GET IN TOUCH WITH VECCHI TO WORK OUT REPAYMENT. IF
LISLE DOES NOT REPAY DEBT, WE WILL CERTAINLY BE FACED WITH
PROBLEM WHICH WILL HAVE ADVERSE EFFECT ON OUR GOVERNMENT-
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TO-GOVERNMENT RELATIONS. GARDNER

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NNN

Message Attributes

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